

Bulletin

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BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Jeff Ellentuck Chosen for Council Seat; Clark Resigns as Administrator

By Michael Ticktin

At a special meeting held on March 6, the Borough Council, by a vote of 3 to 2, chose Jeff Ellentuck over Stuart Kaufman to fill the seat vacated by Beth Battel when she took office as mayor. Dan Hoffman, Mike Hamilton and Peggy Malkin voted for Mr. Ellentuck, while Pat Moser and Bob Silverstein voted for Mr. Kaufman. Prior to the vote, Mr. Kaufman told the Council that he wanted to re-join the Council in order to make good use of the expertise he had acquired with regard to the municipal utility systems, while Mr. Ellentuck cited his experience as an attorney involved in the financing of public improvements.

Administrator Bob Clark submitted a letter of resignation, effective March 24, which was included in the correspondence read at the regular meeting of March 13. Mr. Clark did not state the reason for his resignation in his letter and subsequently declined to elaborate.

Zoning Officer Bob Francis reported that PSE&G had made holes in the road on Lake Drive in order to do repairs and had ruined the new blacktop. He recommended that the Council contact them to get the damage

fixed. Bert Ellentuck asked Mr. Francis why there had been no response to a letter he had sent protesting the use of the synagogue parsonage, a residential property, as an office without benefit of a use variance. Mr. Francis said he had not seen the letter. Mr. Ellentuck also recommended that, instead of issuing summons for excessive water use during the summer, the borough effectively limit usage by imposing substantially higher rates at higher usage levels. (Summer usage limitations are necessary because of the capacity of the water tank, not because there may or may not be drought conditions in a given year.)

The Council had scheduled a vote on the second and final reading of an ordinance to establish a position of code enforcement officer. The purpose of such a position would be to have an official to enforce those ordinances not enforced by the zoning officer, the housing inspector or the State Police. When the floor was opened for the public hearing, Bert Ellentuck objected to the proposed ordinance, saying that the borough should first review and codify all of the existing ordinances. Michael Ticktin said

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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In its April edition, *New Jersey Monthly* published a list of "The Top 100 Places To Live In New Jersey." Roosevelt is number one on the list.

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Please report any bear sightings to:
State Bureau of Wildlife Management
Kim Tinnes
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609-259-7955



Parents: It has come to our attention that many children as well as teenagers have been playing in the streets. Before there is an accident because of on-coming cars, please make sure that this practice is stopped.

Be a good citizen and attend the Borough Council Meetings on the first three Mondays in the month at 7 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Thoughtful neighbors pick up after their dogs. Are you a thoughtful neighbor?

During the winter months, the library has not been open on Wednesday evenings. But it may be visited from 3 to 4 p.m. most days when the staff is available to help check out books.

Think about becoming a member of the Roosevelt Community Shares Agriculture.

Board Hears Continuation of Roosevelt Preservation Association Appeal

The planning board suspended the order of business at its regular meeting of March 14 in order to continue hearing the appeal of the Roosevelt Preservation Association (RPA), led by Bert Ellentuck, against the refusal of Zoning Officer Bob Francis to issue a notice of violation to Yeshiva Me'on Hatorah for operating a private high school at the synagogue building leased from Congregation Anshei Roosevelt without having obtained a use variance.

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, board members Michael Ticktin and Michael Hamilton recused themselves, in response to a request from Edward Liston, attorney for the yeshiva. Mr. Liston's objection to Mr. Ticktin was that, in resigning from the synagogue and its board in 2001, he had expressed opposition to actions taken by the then-religious director, without board of trustees approval, to institute Orthodox religious practices, and had objected to the position taken by the religious director that the way to revive the synagogue was to encourage the movement of Orthodox people into the community. Mr. Liston claimed, in a letter to planning board attorney Michele Donato, that this showed that Mr. Ticktin was biased against his clients. On advice of Ms. Donato, Mr. Ticktin agreed to recuse himself, but not without making it clear that he did not concede the validity of any allegations that he could not or would not decide the matter objectively and in accordance with the law. Mr. Liston's objection to Mr. Hamilton was that comments

that he had made at a Council meeting last year showed that he had "a bias and prejudice bordering on animus" against his clients. Mr. Hamilton responded by stating that he would recuse himself because, as the Class III (Council) member of the board, he would not be able to vote on any matter that might lead to a use variance.

Robert Gasiorowski, attorney for the RPA, sought to disqualify board member David Ticktin from hearing the appeal, on the grounds that he had brought representatives of the yeshiva to the home of board chairman Ralph Seligman to discuss their plans. Mr. Gasiorowski stated his desire to elicit testimony from Mr. Seligman as to that incident. Mr. Ticktin, however, said he could resolve the whole matter by explaining what happened. He said that he had been driving up Homestead Lane, had seen a group of "black hats" in front of the synagogue and had greeted them and asked if he could help them. They asked him questions about zoning and he said that he was not sure of the answers, but he could take them to someone who could. He then brought them across the street to Mr. Seligman's house. He denied having had any prior contact with them or having any involvement in bringing them to Roosevelt, as had been alleged. Ms. Donato told him that neither he nor Mr. Seligman nor any other planning board member should be discussing any matter that might come before the board with any potential applicant and that the proper course would have been to refer all questions to

the zoning officer. Having given his explanation, Mr. Ticktin did not recuse himself.

The RPA presented testimony from Charles Rush, a licensed engineer and surveyor, who testified that he had plotted the three lots owned by Congregation Anshei Roosevelt on Homestead Lane (the residence lot, the synagogue lot and the wooded lot between the synagogue and the Ellentucks' residence) and had determined that the total area was 1.8757 acres, which is less than the two acres required by the zoning ordinance for a house of worship in the R-40 zone (of which these lots are a part). Mr. Liston asked if he had physically surveyed the property. Mr. Rush said that he had not, but that the purpose of what he had done was to determine if the metes and bounds measurements of the lots, as described in the filed deeds, closed and what the total area was, and that a physical survey was not necessary for this purpose.

The RPA also presented testimony from John Chadwick, a professional planner. He said that a house of worship is a conditional use under the current ordinance and must conform to the applicable standards. He described the yeshiva as a new use requiring a new application. Citing the lease between the congregation and the yeshiva which had been provided by Mr. Liston in response to a subpoena, he said that the new use would involve expansion of the existing synagogue building and the building of a dormitory and that this

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From the Mayor

Dear Neighbors,

It is with great regret I must tell you of the resignation of our Borough Administrator, Bob Clark. His dedication to his job was unsurpassed, and we will be hard pressed to find a replacement with anything close to his commitment to our town. I personally thank Bob for all his time and help getting me started in my new position.

We are seeking applicants for the position, and Council will be discussing the matter at its committee meetings.

The debate over enacting an ordinance creating a code enforcement officer continues. While no one wants their civil liberties infringed upon, we must recognize that civil law saves people from infringing on the rights of their neighbors or permitting their own rights from being taken away. To have laws without a means to enforce them is pointless. The health and safety of our citizens is our primary concern.

We have been meeting with the Officer of Emergency Management, Ed Miller and the Roosevelt Fire Company to discuss out-fitting the four volunteers who are currently attending training classes to become accredited fire-fighters.

One firefighter Joe Petrics is attending EMT classes to enable him to serve on the First Aid Squad as well.

Thanks to all volunteers who donate so much of their time and energies to making our town a safer and better place. ■

To Editor,

Recently I had the privilege of participating in our town's democratic process. I was one of three names submitted by the Democratic Committee to the Council for consideration for filling the open seat on the Council. I thank the Council for giving me the opportunity to speak about the issue of our water system. I thank them for giving me and this issue serious consideration. I will continue to lobby our Council on generating revenue by off-site processing of gray/black water. In conversations with Council members the members the idea has generated positive interest.

I have written and spoken out about Roosevelt's money pit of a water system since 2000. At that time the water and sewer rate was \$125 a month and I wrote that within the next few years that rate would seem low compared to how the rate would increase to \$150 to \$175. Unfortunately that prediction seems to be coming true.

When I left the Council we had a utility surplus of approximately two hundred thousand dollars, but we were not generating any new surplus with a water/sewer rate of \$125 a month. We now have a cash poor utility, having spent our surplus and more. These monies were not spent on capital improvements, but on maintenance and repairs. Although our rates are increasing, the surplus is not. What this all means is that any major breakdowns to the water system will have to be funded by loans, adding to our over burdening debt service we now pay. Keep in mind more than 50 percent of your water/sewer bill goes to paying off

loans. The frequency and number of repairs to the water system are increasing, because our system is old. The question is not when but how soon will there be a major failure. The answer to our problem is money. The problem is how do we get it. There is one way, processing grey-black water as other municipalities do. The only plan that can work is off site from the sewer plant, possibly the water plant. The potential of generating one hundred thousand dollars or more is worth every effort by our elected officials. We need to open our minds not just to the issues we like but to all the issues that affect us. Some people might say I'm an alarmist, but the fact is your rates have gone up 20 percent. The fact is in the past two years the number of breakdowns and repairs have increased at an alarming rate. I believe the facts show we are in trouble.

Thank you,

Stuart Kaufman ■



Spring has Sprung - Spring Cleanup Time

This is the time of year when residents make plans to fix up and beautify their homes and property. zoning ordinances need to be checked by residents.

A visual inspection of the borough will be made during this time to detect violations and inform residents of zoning ordinances. The inspection will be for any new construction to the exterior of homes and property. Additions, sheds, fences, pools, decks, cars, driveways, parking will be checked for compliance with zoning ordinances.

Sheds need to be placed in the back yard, not on the side yard. Also, if the shed is over 10 X 10 feet, it needs to be anchored and a permit must be obtained from the State Construction Official. The official is at the Borough on Monday, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for this purpose. Also, I will try to be there at the same time whenever possible. I can be called anytime to make an appointment to view site plans. Site plans will have to be checked with zoning ordinances. This process can take 3 or more days. The proper forms and calculations must be submitted with the site plan. No site plan will be reviewed without the proper forms and calculations.

Step one - plan to include zoning ordinances for your spring clean up and fix up.

Article VI - Section 6.100 of the ordinance

6.100 Site Plan and Environmental Review. No building in the Borough of Roosevelt shall be erected, externally altered or enlarged, no trees or other significant vegetation removed where there is danger of soil erosion or stream sedimentation, no building or land therein shall be used and no building or occupancy permit shall be issued except in accordance with site and building plans that have been approved as provided by this ordinance; except that site plan review and approval by the planning board shall not be required for subdivision or individual lot applications for detached one and two dwelling unit buildings. (Ord.97-15)

Let's all work together to maintain Roosevelt in its beautiful condition.

Your Taxes Are At Work for Health, Safety, & Welfare of all Roosevelt residents.

The zoning official works for you, please treat the zoning official fairly.

Unofficial copy of the ordinances can be viewed at www.web2sons.org/zoning/zoning-ords.pdf

Adobe software will be needed to view and print forms. ■

By Clare Sacharoff

Fourteen people attended the March 7th meeting.

The group attended a movie for their regularly scheduled monthly trip. This was preceded by brunch at the Prestige Diner.

A box lunch was served at the borough hall, March 31st at 12:30 p.m.

Interested members enjoyed a production of *Cats*, April 2nd at the Kelsey Theater at Mercer County College. Volunteer drivers picked up passengers.

Rick Delfonzo from the Monmouth Office on Aging is presenting an overview on topics of interest to seniors at our April meeting.

Doris McIntyre acted as hostess and provided delicious refreshments at our March meeting. ■

RESIDENTS!

This is your newspaper. We would be happy to hear from you either in the form of letters or articles which we would be pleased to include in our publication each month.

That's what this paper is for — to help us to get to know one another as well as to let you know what is happening in the town.

Let us know what you think, what you do.

How about it?

From the Office of the Principal, Shari Payson

Springtime and school budget season are upon us. The budget hearing is scheduled for March 30th at 7:30 p.m. As of this writing, Governor Corzine had not yet released his state aid figures for New Jersey schools and therefore we cannot project whether taxes will increase, decrease or remain stable. This information will be provided to you as soon as it is available. I look forward to the community's continued support of the budget.

Annual school elections will take place on April 18th at Borough Hall from 2:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Eric Vuolle, Natalie Warner and Anna Johnson are running for the three available seats on the Board of Education. Members of the board give a great deal of their time and expertise in making sure

the school system runs smoothly in a fiscally sound operation. Please give them your support.

During the week of March 20th, standardized assessments were administered to first, third, and fourth graders. Third and fourth graders took the state assessment, NJ ASK 3 and NJ ASK 4 (New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge). First graders will utilize NJ PASS (New Jersey Proficiency Assessment of State Standards) as their testing instrument. Standardized testing for second, fifth, and sixth graders will begin on April 4th. Fifth and sixth graders will be taking NJ ASK 2006 and second graders will be taking NJ PASS. Tests, of course, are just one measure of how a student is performing in school.

Test results are used to plan curriculum and instruction, and to diagnose specific needs of children.

During the month of April, our students will be involved with Earth Day and Arbor Day activities. To celebrate, RPS is going to have a tree planting ceremony on April 28th. The NJ Tree Foundation and the National Arbor Day Foundation have donated the trees. We are collaborating with members of the Roosevelt Environmental Commission and the community to create an educational, fun-filled event. If you are interested in participating or donating items such as soil, mulch, food, shovels, bottled water etc., please contact the school at 448-2798. We would welcome the help of community members.

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April 2006 School Dates

April 4 - 72nd, 5th, & 6th Grade Testing	April 20Math/Technology/Art Night, 7 p.m. (Subject to Change)
April 5End of 3rd Marking Period	April 21Pizza
April 6PTA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	April 25PTA Book Swap; Ice Cream Day
April 7Pizza; Look Alike Day	April 26Assembly Totally Courageous Basketball, 1:15 p.m.
April 10 - 14School Closed	April 27Board of Ed Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
April 17 - 21Star Lab	April 286th Grade Assembly; Arbor/Earth Day Celebration (Subject to Change)
April 18PTA Sponsored Internet Safety Presentation, 7 p.m. School Budget Vote & Bd. Member Elections, 2:30 p.m., Borough Hall	April 29Talent Show, 7 p.m.
April 19 Report Cards Distributed	

**FROM OFFICE OF THE
PRINCIPAL, SHARI PAYSON**

Continued from Page 6

Our students have been busy planning and rehearsing for their talent show. Everyone is invited for Saturday, April 29th at 7:00 p.m.

On behalf of the staff, students, parents and community members, thank you PTA for sponsoring the Winter Carnival. I was amazed at the transformation of the school. The food was fabulous, the gifts for the auction were unbelievable and the games and prizes were fantastic. Please accept my commendation and appreciation for the outstanding job you did. Thank you to everyone that volunteered their time and donated items. This is an example of the strong connection among parents, community and the school that has helped to ensure that Roosevelt Public School is an outstanding place to teach and learn.

Thank you to families, teachers and friends for participating in the Target Take Charge of Education School Fundraising Program. If you shop at Target, please sign up for the program and designate Roosevelt Public School as the recipient of 1% of your purchases. Last month we received a check for over \$200.00. This money will go directly for student activities.

HAPPY SPRING ■

RCNS April Newsletter

By Ginny Weber

Spring is finally here and everyone here at RCNS is eager to spend much more time outdoors. We will explore our environment to find all the seasonal changes. We will learn about April showers and the water cycle. The students will also find out about the importance of rain to us and our environment.

April is a wonderful time to learn that some animals are born and some are hatched from eggs. The children will learn about baby animals and different kinds of habitats.

One of our favorite trips is to Footlight Farm. The children learn how to care for horses. Hopefully there will be a foal for us to see!

To celebrate Earth Day, our class will learn how everyone could participate in keeping our neighborhood clean. We will make litterbags so we remember not to litter.

The children will bring "stuffed" or real pets to school for our pet show this month. They each get turns to talk about their pets and how to take care of them. It's very interesting to see how many different kinds of pets are brought to school.

We are participating in the Book-It program for the months of March and April to promote reading at home.

We are hosting an open house on Sunday, April 23rd to show families in our area about our school program. We are accepting applications for "Little Hearts Day Camp" as well as the school year beginning in September. If anyone is interested in either program, please contact me at 609-426-9523 to get the information you need or to schedule a visit. We would love to see you! ■

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Continued from Page 3

would require a new application. His conclusion was that the yeshiva is not part of the existing synagogue use (which is legal as a prior non-conforming use under an earlier ordinance), was in violation of the two-acre requirement and was in violation of the ordinance due to lack of off-street parking.

It being the contention of the RPA that the private school constitutes a second principal use of the property and there was therefore considerable discussion as to whether the ordinance, as adopted, expressly prohibits having a second principal use on a property. Mr. Liston objected that no such language was in the copy of the ordinance that he had received. The board finally determined that the document that included such a prohibition was a draft that included amendments to the zoning ordinance that have not yet been adopted, and that such a prohibition is not currently in effect.

The hour being late, the meeting adjourned. Further proceedings in this matter were scheduled for a special meeting on April 4. Meanwhile, the board will hold a special meeting on March 28, at which time it will hear a site plan application from Valley North LLC for construction of a new industrial building at its property at 30 North Valley Road and will take care of other matters postponed from the regular monthly meeting. ■

Walkers!

**Be visible on the
road at night.
Wear reflective
clothing.**

NATURE NEWS OF NOTE – FROGS ARE CALLING!

Thanks to all who alerted me to the frogs calling this winter. I too heard the sometimes deafening chorus of spring peepers in several places around town weeks before the official start of spring. A few days of above normal temperatures triggered their ardor to find each other. The scientific name *Hyla Crucifer* hints to the brown 'cross' found on the back of this tiny, less than an inch long, amphibian.

Now as the days continue to warm, watch for frogs crossing roads near water in the evening darkness. Flashlights or car headlights are needed to see the different species clearly and numbers are highest during a light rain. They can be easily caught for positive identification but then it is best to return them to the natural habitat as soon as possible.

It was great to hear about a bald eagle sighting at Lake Assunpink by Kate John-Alder. She saw the bird around the lake by the remote control airport area. Assunpink is a great place for all kinds of wildlife and wild plant viewing and it's right in our own backyard.

ARBOR DAY

The Roosevelt Environmental Commission is always looking for community involvement and we hatched several ideas at a recent meeting with RPS Principal Shari Payson. Four tree related events will be intertwined around music, dance and refreshments all tentatively scheduled, for April 28th, a Friday.

First, the students will be presented with information about four or five 'TREE CANDIDATES' to vote on which will be planted near the Rochdale facing school sign. Then each student will be receiving their own tree to plant and the Roosevelt Environmental Commission and friends will show them how to plant and take care of them. Flowering dogwoods will be planted near the school walkways near the Roosevelt Statue and cared for by students. The 'Historic Specimen Trees' will be discussed and moved, if possible, to make way for the Nursery school play area.

The PTA, Angel Cloughly and other friends of the Roosevelt Environmental Commission will try to arrange for music and a May Pole Dance to help celebrate Arbor Day, Earth Day and May Day, all on the 28th of April at the Roosevelt Public School during school hours and the community is invited.

FINAL NOTES

Watch for dates and information regarding this Spring's wood debris pick-up. Natural tree limbs and brush can be put to the curb in time for roadside chipping provided by the borough. Please follow instructions on the Bulletin Board next to the Post Office or on fliers to be distributed.

Our next scheduled Roosevelt Environmental Commission meeting will be Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. on April 19, 2006. Everyone is welcomed to attend and if anyone has a newsworthy nature note or comment of environmental concern, please give me a call at 609-443-6204. Thank you for reading this column and I appreciate all your reports and calls. ■

As happens every year, we again find ourselves in a situation where the many generous contributions we have received are not enough to pay the cost of all of our scheduled issues and we must once again request your help.

If you have not yet contributed, please do so.

If you have already contributed but can contribute more, also please do so.

This is your community newspaper—if you can keep it!

Yoga

The Recreation Department is continuing its very popular yoga program at Roosevelt Borough Hall. On occasion, classes will be held at the Roosevelt School. Classes will be instructed by Kym Kulp, a certified Yoga Instructor who teaches at The Peddie School and throughout the area. While yoga mats will be provided, participants are welcomed to bring their own. Classes will be offered on Tuesday nights from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.. The cost of the program is \$80.00 per person. Program dates are March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9. Walk-ins are welcome.

Movie Night

The Recreation Department invites all area residents to the Roosevelt Public School gymnasium to enjoy the following movies on the “big screen”:

Saturday, April 8th, 7:00 p.m. “SKY HIGH”

In this live-action Disney action-adventure comedy, Sky High is a special high school that trains youngsters to be superheroes. When 14-year-old Will Stronghold becomes a freshman there, he is assigned to the sidekick track, which doesn’t sit well with his famous superhero parents. But eventually Will’s superpowers begin to emerge when a serious threat is posed by super-villains.

Summer Camp

The Recreation Department has partnered with Millstone Township to offer a unique opportunity for Roosevelt students to participate in the very popular Millstone Recreation Summer Camp at the Millstone Elementary School. The partnership will provide Roosevelt students a great opportunity to interact with hundreds of students from the surrounding area. The

cost per child for the five-week program is \$350.00 if paid for by May 1st. Optional trips are offered each day for an additional cost. Before and After Camp hours are also available at an additional cost. More detailed information is available through the Roosevelt School and at Borough Hall.

Summer Workshops/ Programs

The Recreation Department will be sponsoring a week-long Science Workshop and a week-long Sports Camp in August! More information will be available in May.

For further information on any Recreation Department programs, please contact (609) 448-0539, x3. The Recreation Department is also looking for ideas for new programs, activities, and trips. Please let us know what you would like to see offered to our community! ■

Zoning: Look Before You Leap!

by Bob Francis, Zoning Officer

Are you thinking about a modification to your yard? To your house? Your parking area? Are you thinking of adding a window? A door? A fence? A shed?

The guidelines for all of this, and much more, are carefully explained in the “Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of Roosevelt.” The intent of this ordinance is to keep our Borough safe and beautiful. For more information, please check out www.web2sons.org **before you start!**

Once Upon a Long Time Ago

A very long time ago in 1938, my parents Sam and Sylvia Nadler, my brother Nathan and I moved from the Bronx to Jersey Homesteads.

To understand how and why we arrived here, we should go back to the early 1900's when my father Sam, age thirteen and his older brother Jake emigrated to America from a small town in Galicia (Austrian Poland). They left two younger brothers Harry and Joe (Gladys Nadler's father) back in Europe.

The boys had lost both parents in a short period of time. How terrified my dad must've been with no adults, not knowing the language, and going to a strange land. They arrived at Ellis Island and stayed with an uncle for a short time. Both boys began working in a garment factory since they had been apprenticed as tailors.

A few years later, the four brothers were reunited in America. Since they had such a difficult childhood the brothers remained close all their lives, laughing at each other's jokes, and enjoying each other's company.

Each brother married and started a family. My father and mother met while working together in the same place. She was a lively, laughing young woman with a shock of black curly hair, who had come from Romania. They married in 1922 and a year later my brother was born. The Nadler brothers were thrilled that someone would carry on the Nadler name. Ironically, he had three daughters (so much for the name).

Several years later, I appeared on the scene.

We lived in a two bedroom walk-up apartment, as did many of our relatives.

Much of our time consisted of



My parents, 1923

visiting relatives and going to the Bronx Zoo.

Each summer, we hired a car to take us to the Catskill Mountains, where each family rented a room and the women shared a kitchen. The men came out on weekends.

My parents thought the mountain air would be healthy for the children. They enjoyed buying fresh corn from a nearby farm and picking wild berries. I can still smell the delicious pies they baked.

My parents became friendly with a family who told them about this wonderful new community called Jersey Homesteads, where a family could rent a huge three bedroom house with land to grow vegetables and provide employment in a factory there all for \$16 a month. It sounded too good to be true!

My mother was a restless type. She would often move the furniture around so it would seem as if we were in a new place.

My father had had several bouts of pneumonia and had a condition called "chronic bronchitis."

They thought a change of scenery would be good for everyone.

One Saturday we jumped into my cousin's jalopy and off we went to search for Jersey Homesteads. It was an exhausting two-hour trip (the Turnpike had not yet been built). We finally arrived at our destination. I was very disappointed at what I saw. It looked like a dreary desolate town with flat roofs and few trees. We met a family who invited us in to see their home. My parents were quite impressed by the shiny parquet floors and the spacious rooms. We visited the tearoom, which was like an old-fashioned ice cream parlor.

Upon our return to the Bronx, my parents filled out the necessary applications, were interviewed in person and paid the \$500 fee.

Finally we were approved. My father came out to work in the factory and chose a house for us to rent. He boarded with a family called Naroditsky and came home on weekends. He raved about how friendly the people were. He rented a house on a corner located at 44 Co-op Circle (now 30 Pine Dr. where we still reside). There was a girl my age who lived next door. We hired a moving van and about a week before we were to move, a man came to see us. He was our new next-door neighbor and asked if we could transport a piano on our van for his daughter. We agreed and soon we were on our way.

We took a bus to Hightstown and a man from our town picked us up and delivered us to our house. The moving van had not yet arrived.

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TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

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The rooms seemed enormous. The kitchen walls were painted blue and there was a black tile floor. We counted three bedrooms, an open porch, garage, and storeroom. We couldn't believe all the space. I was to have my very own room. I never realized what privacy meant. Now the house seems small.

My father took me to meet the girl next door. She was my age with bright red hair. We became very good friends and remained that way throughout our lives even though her family moved back to the city after the eighth grade.

My first day of school was a revelation. In my old school, the teacher had to check the seating chart to get my name. I was one of about 35 students and though I did well, I was extremely shy.

My new teacher was a young woman called Ruth Kaplan, who always knew my name, played the piano and hung my picture on the bulletin board. Thus began my emergence as a person.

I was only 10 but in the sixth grade. There were about 20 students in a combined fifth and sixth grades.

Those were happy years. Eighth grade graduation was very special. We walked down to Pomp and Circumstance. I was the tallest girl (I haven't grown since). After the ceremony we all went to the tearoom and celebrated with ice cream.

After graduation, my best friend told me her family was moving back to New York. I didn't think I could survive the separation. Somehow I did and have survived many separations since.

My brother and father planted a garden and that was exciting. Dad also learned to drive. He was 43 and never imagined he would one day own a car and drive. Soon the garment

factory closed and was replaced by a ladies' hat factory called Kartiganer. My father got a job there and my mother decided to go to work. She hadn't worked for about 19 years. She really enjoyed working there. I worked there for several summers and realized how difficult it is for some people to earn a living.

High school was not so thrilling. I felt kind of isolated. There were no buses to take us to extra curricular activities.

My friends and I spent a lot of time pondering the "meaning of life." (I'm still working on that one.)

Then World War II happened. My brother went to the Air Force.

By this time, the homes had been sold by the federal government to the tenants. My parents were now homeowners. I think they paid \$4,000 for their home. They were both frightened and proud to own their home.

My brother came home on leave, married a local girl (Mildred Becker), had a daughter, and bought a house in Jersey Homesteads right behind my parents' home. He later became an architect. Eventually, he designed the synagogue. My parents were proud.

I went off to college, taught a few years, got married, moved away, and had a daughter. My husband and I bought my brother's house. He bought a larger house across the street. My cousin Gladys Nadler moved to Roosevelt with her husband and son. Later they had two more sons. We ended up with eight children between us all playing together. The cousins still feel a connection towards each other.

When my son was about ten months old my father died. His heart had been weakened by all the years of coughing (bypass surgery had not been invented). He lived in Jersey Homesteads for 20 years and lived long enough to

see five grandchildren.

When my son was five, I was offered a job teaching in our local school. By this time the name of the town had become Roosevelt. A friend of mine, who had grown up here, cared for my son. She became a lifelong friend and he still has a warm feeling towards her.

I worked at the school for 30 years and 12 principals. My own son was in my class in first grade. At parent conference time, I had to confer with his father since I didn't think his mother could be totally objective. I made many friends at work. All these friendships have sustained me through many trying times.

Now my husband and I are retired. My children are grown and leading their own lives. My brother is in Florida. My cousin Gladys still lives here.

My parents are in the local cemetery. I often say, "You know you're getting older when you know more people in the cemetery than in town."

My parents weren't highly educated nor were they enormously wealthy. Yet, they left us with a love of family, a respect for hard work, and possibly most important, a sense of humor. That's my story! ■

About Two Square Miles Of Stories

Everyone in our two-square mile town has old family photographs and memories of the people in them. These pictures and your memories are narratives waiting to enrich us all. So, join us in a Roosevelt Show and Tell project - find an old picture or two and tell us a story in a few paragraphs.

For information telephone:

Pearl Seligman	448-2340
Bess Tremper	448-2701

RAP Review: Father-Daughter Singing Teams

By Scott Carpenter

Who says you can't come home again? On March 11th, the Father-Daughter Singing Teams of David and Rachel Brahinsky and John and Lily Parrott proved that a home coming is so much more than the frequent flier miles or the baggage accumulated over time. Their songs of love and family, of longing and hope, of beauty and laughter gave voice to the journey and brought the Borough Hall to life again for one night.

Before the Brahinskys even sang a note, we found that it wasn't enough for Rachel to make the trip alone from the West Coast; she brought her brother Josh with her and they helped form an expanded group, the Brahinsky Trio. A wonderful surprise indeed as Josh's bass play lent bonus textures to their songs and only heightened the emotional undertones to Rachel and David's voices.

Many of their song choices were recognizable to anyone who has heard David's Roosevelt String Band but part of what made the set most enjoyable was the juxtaposition between the songs we heard last spring and how those same songs sound with just a guitar (or two), maybe a standup bass and Rachel singing the female lead. A friend of mine remarked how her voice reminded him of Natalie Merchant's; full of warmth and a subtle strength that serves her quite well in duets with her father's deep, rich bass. This was very evident on the Dave Carter and Tracy Grammer tune *Gentle Arms of Eden* and Cheryl Wheeler's *Quarter Moon* where David and Rachel made us feel the longing for family and the comforts of home so vividly.

Rachel and Josh sang Steve Earle's *Christmas in Washington* with such tenderness that even the current presidential administration couldn't help but take heed to those words. Two of my absolute favorites of the whole evening were the tour de force *I Go Like the Raven*, and the most humorous *Potato Song*. Besides as serving as the most enjoyable of tongue twisters, how can anyone go wrong with an ode to the potato?

After the break it was John and Lily Parrot's turn to knock our socks off and man, did they ever. Right from the start there was Lily, this young woman, with this achingly beautiful voice. She started us off with a song in Portuguese, *Agua de Beber* and we were mesmerized. Clearly there would be no letdown from one set to the next.

As the set moved on, most of the songs were John originals and the mood shifted into this rich back and forth between Lily's lilting vocals soaring between the spaces set down by John's guitar and John's own gritty voice haunting us with these deep bluesy tales of loss and regret.

There is such beauty in the poignancy in the emotion of their songs. Whereas David and Rachel gave us a wonderful sense of comfort, the songs John and Lily sang quite often showed us comfort by reminding us how we would feel in its absence.

Two completely different vocal styles and in the end I was stunned how they both brought me to the same place. From the rich, soulfulness of *Whispering Pines*, to the blues of despair in John's *It's Over* to the ache of *Marble Halls*, I felt spent by the trailing notes of each and every song.

The entire evening blew me away. As a new edition to the RAP calendar this was one of the stars of this year's

artistic feast and now afterwards, all I can hope for is that we will have the opportunity to hear these groups play again in the not so distant future. We need both the Brahinsky Trio and the Parrotts because without them, home is just a little less home.

Roosevelt First Aid Squad Training & Response News

By Jack Rindt, Roosevelt First Aid Squad Training Officer

In the month of February, the Squad responded to 15 first aid calls. In Roosevelt, seven were medical emergencies, two were fire stand-bys and one was a motor vehicle accident (MVA). Mutual aid calls to Millstone Twp. were four medical emergencies and one fire stand-by.

The Squad responded to 25 emergencies from January 1 to February 28.

At the training for February, the squad members were re-certified through the American Red Cross in CPR/AED and Preventing Disease Transmission.

Anyone or group that is in need of first aid training should contact a squad member so we can schedule that training.

The squad would like to thank the Tulloss family for their generous donation.

The First Aid Squad is now looking to buy a pulse oximeter to be used to measure the amount of oxygen in a person's system and to monitor pulses. This would be a great aid in helping us with cardiac and respiratory emergencies. The cost of this machine is \$700.00.

The squad has started to put away funds for the new ambulance. Any contributions for the new ambulance would be greatly appreciated. Please

Continued on Page 14

In Memoriam

The following is the text of remarks made at Toby Levin's funeral, which took place at 11:30 a.m. at the Roosevelt cemetery on February 26, 2006

Toby was one of my role models - not for the first part of life; I didn't meet her until she was eighty-six. I'd known no-one who made it past eighty-five and did it well.

I was attracted to Toby because she enjoyed her life. Sight is important to me as an artist. Toby was losing hers. I admired the steps she took to preserve her independence. She would scan her letters with a magnifier, reading (and I quote Toby) "one letter at a time". She'd write perfectly legible checks on autopilot. Her phone numbers on postits adorned the kitchen wall.

Toby enjoyed radio and pool walking with her friend Diana,

taking the SCAT to shop with the other seniors. On trips to the doctor, she had enough peripheral vision to enjoy the color and light of the scenery, and enough energy to munch out on Chinese food.

Toby was proud of her career as a legal secretary, and of her family. She was proud of her family, but took an interest in other people's families, too. She didn't get bent out of shape by news, politics or ideological trivia. If something was torn or broken, she'd set out resolutely to have it mended. I remember one of the things she asked me for when she first went into assisted living was a packet of

safety pins.

There was plenty to kvetch about, but Toby always got over it.

Unless we have the good fortune to be taken suddenly, by a stroke or an eighteen wheeler, all of us will have to face the failure of various body parts. Our knees, our ears, our eyes, our hearts. No-one did this with more courage and intelligence than Toby Levin.

Frances G. Duckett ■

By W. Czyzewski

THE PATH TAKEN

Some paths are not worth taking

Not even at another time

Even though they bend

Provocatively into shade

I prefer staying out in the open

Where the sky can keep an eye on me

Moving antlike over horse paths

Following my usual route

Head stuffed with clues

BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT

Continued from Page 1

that such a position was necessary in order to ensure that all ordinances are enforced, and that the adequacy of specific ordinances is a separate issue. He recommended that the ordinance clearly state that the code enforcement officer would not enforce ordinances specifically assigned to other officials. Councilman Jeff Ellentuck said that, if the ordinance were indeed necessary, that and other changes would have to be made. Since an ordinance cannot be passed on second reading if substantive changes are made from the text that was advertised, the Council voted to refer the ordinance back to committee for further review.

The Council also had the second reading and hearing on an ordinance amending the zoning ordinance to adopt stormwater management requirements. This ordinance had been prepared by the municipal engineer, Carmela Roberts, in order to meet State standards and were approved without objection.

In other action, the Council adopted a resolution authorizing a contract with XTC Consulting for telecommunications consultation and a billing audit. The payment to the contractor will be a percentage of whatever savings they can realize in the borough's telecommunications bills. Two budget-related resolutions were also passed. The Council passed a motion declaring the connection of the new home that is to be built

by Ken and Carolyn LeCompte on the Pine Valley Swim Club property to be the continuation of an existing utilities connection, rather than a new connection for which a hook-up fee would be charged, as well as a motion authorizing the municipal engineer to solicit quotes for replacement of sewer lines on Maple Court and subsequent road restoration. Mr. LeCompte suggested that a fire hydrant be installed at the end of the court to facilitate flushing of the lines, since iron build-up has been particularly severe in the water lines there. Fire Chief Kim Dexheimer endorsed Mr. LeCompte's recommendation. The Council also approved motions to solicit quotes for storm sewer and sinkhole repairs on Pine Drive and to authorize use of the municipal building by the Roosevelt Arts Project on April 8 for the Schubert concert by Alan Mallach and Cecilia Ticktin. In response to a letter from April Fierro, a member of the fire company, the Council indicated its interest in taking advantage of a State program to provide tuition assistance to public safety volunteers.

In closing, Mayor Battel thanked Administrator Clark for providing "professional services of the highest order, above and beyond what is required." ■

ROOSEVELT FIRST AID SQUAD TRAINING & RESPONSE NEWS

Continued from Page 12

indicate that your contribution is for the new ambulance fund. Please make out checks to Roosevelt First Aid Squad and send them to P.O. Box 274, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. The First Aid Squad is always thankful when anything can be contributed. A second ambulance in town will help insure that one will always be around.

Do you want to be challenged, help your community, maybe start a career or just help people? Join the Roosevelt First Aid Squad: **We Need Members!**

The squad has two new members in EMT schools who are doing well.

If you would like to join the First Aid Squad, you can contact any squad member or stop in during our business meeting on the third Tuesday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Borough Hall, or the second Sunday of each month when we hold our monthly training, which starts at 10:00 a.m.

The squad only has six Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) at this time. We are always looking for new members to join and we pay for all training. New members can join at the age of 16 and become New Jersey Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Becoming an Emergency Medical Technician with the Roosevelt First Aid Squad could lead to a paying position with a career ambulance company.

In case of an emergency, dial 911.

Thank you, ■

Eggplant Caponata



This past Christmas I had the good fortune to spend at home. Normally I travel to Jersey City and/or Toms River.

Wanting to have a healthful, elegant and sophisticated dinner, yet not willing to slave away in the kitchen for hours on end, I decided on this spread, as part of the meal.

It turned out to be a perfect choice, as the most time consuming part is in the chopping of the vegetables, and I found the fastest way to do that is to slice the eggplant and onions into 1 inch thick rounds, then stack 3-4 slices and cut them into 1 inch cubes.

As my birthday approached, just about a month later, I decided to celebrate by having a party. Once again I wanted to serve my guests something delicious, out of the ordinary and yet be kind to myself by not having to prepare anything too complicated. This recipe was an ideal candidate for the party's menu.

I doubled it for the occasion and served it with whole grain toast points, crusty French bread and Triscuit crackers.

The party turned out to be a splendid and lively event, this spread being a star on the table. I only hope everyone who attended enjoyed themselves as much as I did.

8 tbsp butter, softened
 1/2 c. extra virgin olive oil
 6 cloves garlic chopped
 1 large onion chopped into 1/2 inch cubes
 3 tbsp raisins
 3 tbsp pine nuts
 pinch or 2 of crushed red pepper

1 med. eggplant (about 1 lb)
 chopped into 1/2 inch cubes
 1 tbsp sugar
 1 tsp cinnamon
 1 tsp unsweetened cocoa or
 carob powder
 3 – 3.5 oz jar capers drained

3/4 c marinara sauce
 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
 2 tsp fresh thyme leaves
 or 1/2 tsp dried thyme
 1 tsp salt
 1 tsp coarsely ground black pepper

In a large heavy skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat, until hot but not smoking.

Add garlic, onion, raisins, pine nuts, and crushed red pepper and cook until onion is tender, stirring frequently.

Add eggplant, sugar, cinnamon, and cocoa, cooking until eggplant is tender, stirring frequently.

Stir in capers, marinara sauce, vinegar and thyme; raise heat to high and bring to a boil. Boil for 2-3 minutes, stirring constantly.

Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer 7-10 minutes, stirring frequently.

Add salt and pepper and allow to cool.

Serve at room temperature. ■

**A Look Back At Winter
2005-2006**

Last month we covered the numbers for December and January –colder and wetter than normal for December and much warmer and wetter than normal for January. In February the average temperature was 2.3 degrees above normal. There were 851 degree-days –normal for February is 917. Precipitation for the month was very close to normal. It was just 0.03 inches above average.

A look at the numbers for the entire winter, December, January and February shows Roosevelt had a winter that was both warmer and wetter than normal. The winter brought 2.66 inches above normal precipitation and an average temperature that was 3.3 degrees higher than normal. There were 310 fewer degree-days than normal for the season. Despite the higher-than-normal precipitation for the season, the total snowfall in Roosevelt last winter was just 21.5 inches. That’s about an inch less than normal.

Statewide the winter had above normal precipitation. In the past 111 years there have been only 14 years with more precipitation in New Jersey. The average winter temperature for the state was also above normal. Only 11 of the past 111 winters have had warmer average temperatures.

A recent article at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2006/s2591.htm> reveals that the nation as a whole had a much warmer than normal winter. “The 2005-2006 Winter season was the fifth warmest December-February period on record for the contiguous United States, according to scientists at the NOAA National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C. During the same time, drought conditions worsened in the Southwest and southern Plains, while the Northwest endured heavier-than-average precipitation.”

I’m sure glad the president doesn’t believe in Global Warming. Can you imagine the mess he would make of a war on that?

Looking Ahead

NOAA has given us a very boring three-month outlook for our state and region. Equal chances of wetter or drier weather than normal for the months of April, May and June. Equal chances of warmer or colder temperatures, too. April, May and June are expected to bring dramatic and perhaps dangerous conditions to some portions of the nation. A severe to extreme drought is expected to continue in the Southwest and into the southern Plains and into northward into Kansas increasing the likelihood of wildfires. On the positive side, NOAA says these areas will not be flood prone during the period.

NOAA’s forecast of equal chances of above or below normal temperatures and precipitation really doesn’t come across as very concrete. So, I went to the Old Farmers Almanac website at <http://www.almanac.com/weatherforecast/us/2> to find an outlook with a little more substance: “April and May will be cooler than normal, on average, although there will be warm temperatures in mid-April and early and late May. Rainfall will be above normal. June will be quite pleasant overall, with below-normal rainfall and near-normal temperatures.”

Weather Word

Anvil Crawler is slang for a lightning discharge occurring within the anvil of a thunderstorm, characterized by one or more channels that appear to crawl along the underside of the anvil. They typically appear during the weakening or dissipating stage of the parent thunderstorm. Source: National Weather Service Weather Glossary at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/glossarymain.html>

February 15 – March 15, 2006

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	51.6	24.3	38.0	0.00
16	55.6	30.4	43.0	0.00
17	58.6	36.1	47.4	0.00
18	38.3	16.3	27.3	0.05
19	29.5	14.7	22.1	0.00
20	36.5	19.6	28.1	0.00
21	41.2	21.2	31.2	0.00
22	43.5	22.5	33.0	0.00
23	45.1	34.2	39.7	0.00
24	41.0	29.8	35.4	0.00
25	51.1	24.3	37.7	0.00
26	34.7	19.6	27.2	0.00
27	36.0	18.0	27.0	0.00
28	35.4	14.5	25.0	0.00
1	42.6	21.2	31.9	0.00
2	34.5	23.5	29.0	0.00
3	37.2	21.6	29.4	0.35
4	40.8	25.3	33.1	0.00
5	48.2	27.1	37.7	0.00
6	46.2	25.7	36.0	0.00
7	45.3	24.8	35.1	0.00
8	49.3	22.6	36.0	0.00
9	62.1	39.9	51.0	0.00
10	73.8	50.2	62.0	0.00
11	63.9	41.0	52.5	0.00
12	54.0	46.2	50.1	0.10
13	74.7	45.5	60.1	1.46
14	62.8	42.4	52.6	0.03
15	49.3	37.4	43.4	0.00
Total Precipitation	1.99			

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

2005 - 2006 SEASON

NEXT EVENT:

Saturday, April 8, 2006 (This is the rescheduled date from the postponed one on February 11.)

**AN EVENING WITH SCHUBERT: SONGS & PIANO MUSIC PERFORMED
BY ALAN MALLACH, PIANO & CECELIA TICKTIN, SOPRANO**

Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22, 2006

THE ROOSEVELT STRING BAND

The Roosevelt String Band will perform traditional and contemporary folk songs. Regulars Paul Prestopino, Ed Cedar, Sarah Houtz, and David Brahinsky will be joined by Joe Pepitone and fiddler Gail Frantz. Howie Jacobson will return from North Carolina for a special guest appearance.

Saturday, May 20, 2006

**BITS OF ART- THE LATEST IN DIGITAL MUSIC AND ART,
WITH GARTON & RADKIEWICZ**

You are invited to an open board meeting

Sunday, April 23rd at 11 a.m. at the Borough Hall

We are now planning events for the 2006-2007 Season.

We welcome your ideas so please join us.

Saturday, June 17th, 2006

**ART BY ROOSEVELT ARTISTS SELECTED FROM PRIVATE
COLLECTIONS IN ROOSEVELT**

The exhibit will be in the Eleanor Gallery in the factory, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All events are at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Building except where otherwise noted.

Voluntary Contribution:

For most events \$5 per adult. For the String Band \$10 per adult, \$5 for seniors and children.

Visit RAP's webpage at <http://music.columbia.edu/roosevelt>. There is a link at the top of the page to the site where people can sign up to be on our e-mail list.

For further information call Robin Gould at (609) 448-4616. ■

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Contributions received after March 19 will appear in the next *Bulletin*.

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Please send your events and activities to Jane Rothfuss, Box 122, 448-3713 or email: kirkjane@juno.com

Saturdays – 7:00 p.m. – Movies at RPS- See page 9

April

2	Sun		Daylight Saving Time Begins	
3	Mon	7 pm	Council Committee Mtg Pat Moser, President	Borough Hall 448-4865
		8 pm	Council Agenda Meeting, Beth Battel, Mayor	Borough Hall 448-7701
4	Tues	12:30 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check	Boro Hall
		1 pm	Seniors Meeting Gerry Millar, President	Borough Hall 448-0351
		7:30 pm	Planning Board Meeting Ralph Seligman	Borough Hall 448-2340
5	Wed		RECYCLE	
6	Thurs	7:30 pm	PTA Meeting RPS—Jill Joyce, 443-9423 or Deidre Pizzarelli, 448-2126	
7	Fri		RPS Pizza Day	
8	Sat	8 pm	RAP Program—"The Young Schubert"- Alan Mallach & Cecelia Ticktin (see RAP Page)	
9	Sun	10 am	First Aid Squad Training, Jack Rindt, 448-9475 (Call 9 am to 6 pm)	Boro Hall
10	Mon		RPS Closed - Spring Break thru April 14	
		7:30 pm	Council Action Meeting, Beth Battel, Mayor	Borough Hall 443-7701
12	Wed		Passover Begins at Sundown	
13	Thurs		Passover	
14	Fri		Good Friday	
16	Sun		Easter	
17	Mon		RPS in Session	
		7:30 pm	Council Committee Mtg Pat Moser, President	Borough Hall 448-4865
18	Tues	2:30 pm	School Budget Vote/Bd Member elections	Borough Hall
		7 pm	PTA Sponsored Internet Safety Presentation	RPS

18 Tues 7:30 pm First Aid Squad Business Mtg Boro Hall
Jack Rindt 448-9475

19 Wed RECYCLE
7:30 pm Environmtl Com. Mtg Borough Hall
Dave Schwendeman, Chair 443-6204

21 Fri RPS Pizza Day
8 pm RAP Program-Roosevelt String Band
(See RAP Page)

22 Sat 8 pm RAP Program-Roosevelt String Band
(See RAP Page)

25 Tues PTA Book Swap RPS—Jill Joyce, 443-9423 or Deidre Pizzarelli, 448-2126

27 Thurs 7:30 pm Board of Education Meeting RPS
Linda Grayson, President 443-6462

29 Sat 7 pm RPS Talent Show

May Preview

1 Mon 7 pm Council Committee Mtg Borough Hall
Pat Moser, President 448-4865

8 pm Council Agenda Meeting, Borough Hall
Beth Battel, Mayor 448-7701

2 Tues 12 pm Senior Blood Pressure Check Boro Hall
1 pm Seniors Meeting Borough Hall
Gerry Millar, President 448-0351

4 Thurs 7:30 pm PTA Meeting RPS—Jill Joyce, 443-9423 or Deidre Pizzarelli, 448-2126

5 Fri RPS Pizza Day

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